

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 23-40 and 49-52 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claim 27 has been amended; Claims 49-52 have been added; and Claims 41-48 have been canceled. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 47 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement; Claims 41, 42 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Carstensen (U.S. Patent No. 4,878,285); Claims 43, 44 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carstensen in view of Graham (U.S. Patent No. 2,380,690); and Claims 44 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carstensen in view of Woodling (U.S. Patent No. 2,960,353). Claims 23-40 were allowed.

Applicant expresses appreciation for the indication that Claims 23-40 include allowable subject matter.

Rejected Claims 41-48 have been canceled by this amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections thereof have thereby been rendered moot.

Claim 49 recites, *inter alia*:

...in that the external diameter before insertion of the ring is slightly less than the internal diameter of the housing, so that during tightening, the housing receives the sealing ring which bears axially against the first shoulder....”

Support for the recitations of Claims 49-52 is found, by way of non-limiting example, in the specification page 11, line 37 to page 12, line 10. These features allow provision of the sealing ring on the male thread and mounting of the tubular joint by tightening the male threads into the female thread in a very simple manner. It is respectfully submitted that the

quoted features are neither disclosed by nor rendered obvious by Carstensen, Graham, Woodling or any conceivable combination thereof.

Carstensen describes providing the sealing ring 26 in a housing 24 of the female thread 12 and thereafter tightening the male thread in the female thread, as shown in FIG. 5. Carstensen states “[t]he last thread region 36 of the first pipe 30, i.e., the region of maximum diameter adjacent to threaded taper 32 concurrently engages the exterior seal ring 26, compressing it inwardly relative to the collar 12.”<sup>1</sup> Therefore, Carstensen fails to describe in that the external diameter before insertion of the ring is slightly less than the internal diameter of the housing, so that during tightening, the housing receives the sealing ring which bears axially against the first shoulder as recited in Claim 49.

Neither Graham nor Woodling corrects the deficiencies of Carstensen described above because neither Graham nor Woodling describes the above quoted feature of Claim 49.

It is respectfully submitted that dependent Claims 50-52 are patentable at least for the reasons argued above with regard to Claim 49 from which they depend.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that Claims 23-40 and 49-52 be passed to allowance.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

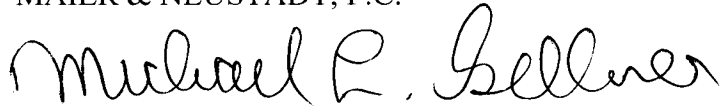
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<sup>1</sup> Column 7 lines 15-19.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael L. Gellner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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